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Final.*

a truss with a resilient member secured therein having a pair of spaced-apart end surfaces which, if forced toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss, results in restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces; and engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against said restoring forces.

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Action of February 13, 1997 supplementing the Action of January 27, 1997. In this last Action, claims 1 through 22 have been rejected, and this rejection has been made final. This communication is also in response to an Advisory Action dated May 9, 1997.

The applicant has amended claim 1, and has rewritten claims 10, 12, 14 and 15 in independent form to overcome the rejections thereof for depending on rejected claims. The applicant has added claim 23 as a variant from claim 8 in accord with our previous discussion. Further, the applicant has canceled claims 8, 9, 11, 13, 17, 20 and 22.

The Examiner suggested in the above Advisory Action that the applicant file a continuation application to further prosecute the claims in the last submitted, but unentered, amendment that involve recitation of plastic material and, presumably, also the rejected pending claims. The applicant will accept this suggestion.

As a result, the applicant has canceled those claims in the application which stand rejected without an indication of allowability. In addition, the applicant has amended or substituted for, those rejected claims indicated to be allowable in the final rejection Action, or in the subsequent discussions to overcome the rejections and to provide a difference in scope from claims issued in earlier patents.

- Inventor: Bruce C. Johnson

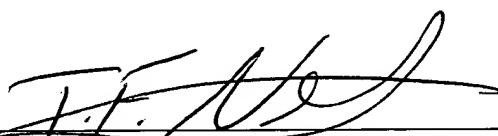
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The applicant thus respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of the claims in view of this amendment, and further requests that the remaining claims in the application be allowed as amended.

Respectfully submitted,

KINNEY & LANGE, P.A.

By: 

Theodore F. Neils, Reg. No. 26,316
Suite 1500
625 Fourth Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1659
Phone: (612) 339-1863 Fax: (612) 339-6580

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